

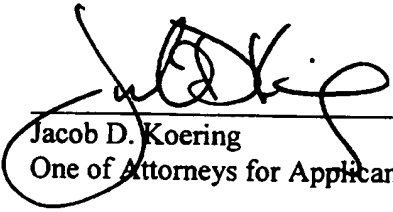
allowed by the Examiner. and certainly do not introduce any new matter into the application.
Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Supervisory Examiner in this case, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.312, enter these amendments into the application before the issue fee is paid.

Should anything further be required, a telephone call to the undersigned, at (312) 226-1818, is respectfully invited.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC

Dated: February 20, 2003

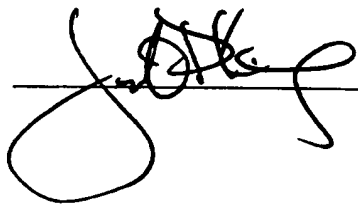


Jacob D. Koering
One of Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on February 20, 2003.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

Please delete the paragraph on Page 1, Line 15, and insert instead:

- - c) control device for the pressure of the [liquid] fluid filling. - -

Please delete the paragraph on Page 3, Line 16, and insert instead:

- - In a preferred refinement of the invention, at least that region of the surfaces forming the boundary of the chamber that is irradiated by illumination light is at least partially formed by an elastically deformable medium, the edge contour of the elastically deformable region being non-rotational-symmetric. An elastically deformable medium having a non-rotational-symmetric edge contour bulges in selected, mutually perpendicular planes in such a way that different curvatures are present at those points. Depending on the pressure of the [liquid] fluid filling, the focal length ratio of such an astigmatic optical element changes in mutually perpendicular meridional planes. In total, this results in an easy-to-implement compensation element for a variable astigmatism. - -

Please delete the paragraph on Page 5, Line 13, and insert instead:

- - At the same time, the optical element is preferably formed from a combination of at least two optical components that each comprise at least one chamber that is sealed from atmospheric pressure and is enclosed by boundary surfaces, that has a [liquid] fluid filling and that is irradiated by illumination light, the optical components having, at least in the region of one surface of the surfaces forming the boundary of the respective chambers in each case at least one optical surface having different curvature in mutually perpendicular planes; and an independent control of the pressure of the [liquid] fluid filling in the chambers assigned to the optical

components is ensured by means of the control device. Larger regions of the astigmatisms to be adjusted can be covered by using a plurality of optical components having [liquid]fluid-pressure-dependent astigmatism. - -

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES

13. The optical system as claimed in claim 12, wherein the optical element (101) is formed from a combination of at least two optical components (127, 128) that each comprise at least one chamber (105, 105') that is sealed from atmospheric pressure and is enclosed by boundary surfaces, that has a [liquid] fluid filling and that is irradiated by illumination light (148), the optical components (127, 128) having, at least in the region of one surface of the surfaces forming the boundary of the respective chambers (105, 105') in each case at least one optical surface having different curvature in mutually perpendicular planes; and wherein an independent control of the pressure of the [liquid] fluid filling in the chambers (105, 105') assigned to the optical components (127, 128) is ensured by means of a control device.